have had no occasion to sit on the 10th day. Practically, we had a sitting of only 9 days for discussion. Now, I have known how the discussion is proceeding, and I will arrange the business in such a way next year that important Demands are placed in the fore-front, and a good part of the discussion is entered upon those important Demands. Now, we shall proceed with the first item of business—Questions and Answers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The dearth of drainage canals in the Cranganur Taluk.

242. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Is the Government aware of the fact that there is a dearth of drainage canals in the Cranganur Taluk?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. More canals for drainage purposes, the deepening of some and petty repairs to some others appear to be beneficial.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the Report of the Road Committee ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

The Special Finance Committee.

243. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that led them to order that the Special Finance Committee should hold its sittings in camera ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government considered it expedient that the Committee should hold its sittings in camera.

244. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Is the Government aware that the sittings of such Committees in British India were generally held publicly?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.— The Government have no definite information.

245. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons to stipulate that only Heads of Departments should be examined?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It appeared to the Government the right course to adopt.

246. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state why non-official evidence has been restricted?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government do not consider the restriction, if any, such as would retard or affect the work of the Committee.

247. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to modify its order so as to have (i) the sittings of the Committee open to the public, (ii) to authorise the Committee to examine officials other than Heads of Departments, if the Committee decides it necessary, and(iii) to remove restrictions on non-official evidence?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The question is under consideration.

248. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.— Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that induced them to appoint to the Special Finance Committee, apart from the members of the Standing Finance Committee, only elected Members of the Council belonging to one community in the State?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The question of communal considerations was never thought of by the Government when the selection of members was made.

249. Mr. Poulo Mampilli. — Will the Government be pleased to state whether the major communities in the State were denied real representation on the Committee, because they were found undeserving of such consideration or the Government could not get gentlemen belonging to those communities who in the opinion of the Government would have graced the Committee by their presence?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar. — Vide answer to question No. 248.

250. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.— Will the Government be pleased to state the special qualifications to the non-official members of the Special Finance Committee to be members thereof?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Nothing special except that they are, in the opinion of the Government, qualified to be members.

The supply of medicines.

251. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table—

(a) P. No. 145/00, dated 4th November 1924, L. M. D. with the endorsement thereon;

(b) the order of the Government on P. No. 214/99, dated 17th November 1924;

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